AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. (previously presented) A compound of formula (I):

(I)

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; wherein

 R_1 is selected from the group consisting of $alkyl(C_1-C_6)$, $alkenyl(C_2-C_6)$, ω,ω,ω -trifluoroalkyl(C_1-C_6), $cycloalkyl(C_3-C_6)$, $cycloalkyl(C_3-C_6)$ $alkyl(C_1-C_6)$, $alkyl(C_1-C_6)$, alkyl(C

 $R_2 \ is \ selected \ from \ the \ group \ consisting \ of \ hydrogen, \ alkyl(C_1-C_6), \ alkenyl(C_2-C_6), \\ alkynyl(C_2-C_6) \ and \ cycloalkyl(C_3-C_6);$

 R_3 is selected from the group consisting of -CN and $-COR_6$ wherein R_6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl(C_1 - C_6), alkenyl(C_2 - C_6), alkynyl(C_2 - C_6), phenyl, monosubstituted phenyl, disubstituted phenyl, phenylalkyl(C_1 - C_6), phenylalkenyl(C_2 - C_6), furyl, substituted furyl, thienyl, substituted thienyl, thiazolyl, substituted thiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, substituted oxadiazolyl, pyridyl and substituted pyridyl;

with the proviso that simultaneously: R_1 may not be p-tolyl and R_2 methyl and R_3 benzoyl; and R_1 may not be p-tolyl and R_2 ethyl and R_3 furyl-2-carbonyl.

 (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a cyano group.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, phenyl and 4-methoxyphenyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, cyclopropyl and 2-propynyl.

4. (cancelled).

- 5. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a thiophene-2-carbonyl group.
- 6. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 5, wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, 2-phenylethenyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, phenyl, 2-chlorophenyl, 3-chlorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 3,4-dichlorophenyl, 2-cyanophenyl, 3-cyanophenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 3-nitrophenyl, 4-nitrophenyl, 2-thienyl, 5-methyl-4-isoxazolyl, 5-methyl-2-trifluoromethyl-3-furyl, 4-(4-morpholinyl)-3-pyridyl, 2,4-dimethyl-5-thiazolyl, cyclopropyl, benzyl, vinyl, 3,5-dimethyl-4-isoxazolyl, 1,3,5-trimethyl-4-pyrazolyl and cyclopentylmethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, cyclopropyl and 2-propynyl.

7. (cancelled).

- 8. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a benzovl group.
- (previously presented) A compound according to claim 8 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

10. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 4-fluorobenzoyl group.

- 11. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 10 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.
- 12. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 4-methylbenzoyl group.
- 13. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 12 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.
- 14. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 4-methoxybenzoyl group.
- 15. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 14 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.
 - 16. (cancelled).
 - 17. (cancelled).
- 18. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a pyridyl-2-carbonyl group.

19. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 18 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

- 20. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a pyridyl-4-carbonyl group.
- 21. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 20 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.
- 22. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of: N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-methanesulfonamide; N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-methanesulfonamide; N-[3-(3-cvano-pvrazolo[1,5-alpvrimidin-7-vl)-phenvl]-N-methyl-benzenesulfonamide; N-[3-(3-cvano-pvrazolo[1.5-a]pvrimidin-7-vl)-phenvl]-N-ethvl-benzenesulfonamide; N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-methanesulfonamide; N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-propyl-ethanesulfonamide; N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-ethanesulfonamide; N-[3-(3-cvano-pyrazolo[1.5-alpyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyll-N-prop-2-ynyl-propane-2-sulfonamide; N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-ethanesulfonamide; N-[3-(3-cvano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-butyl-ethanesulfonamide; N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-2-propanesulfonamide; N-[3-(3-cvano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-vl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-2-propanesulfonamide; N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-butyl-2-propanesulfonamide; N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-propyl-2-propanesulfonamide; and N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-ethanesulfonamide.

23. (cancelled).

24. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide:

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}benzenesulfonamide:

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}benzenesulfonamide:

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-propyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-butyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-propyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-butyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-phenylethenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,2,2-trifluoroethanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-chlorobenzenesulfonamide:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,4-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3,4-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-(3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-cyanobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-cyanobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-cyanobenzenesulfonamide:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-nitrobenzenesulfonamide:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-nitrobenzenesulfonamide:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-5-methyl-4-isoxazolyl-sulfonamide:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-trifluoromethyl-5-methyl-3-furyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-6-(morpholin-4-yl)-3-pyridyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,4-dimethyl-5-thiazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-cvclopropylsulfonamide:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}benzylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-vinylsulfonamide:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3,5-dimethyl-4-isoxazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-1,3,5-trimethyl-4-pyrazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}propanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-butanesulfonamide: and

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-cyclopentylmethanesulfonamide.

25. (cancelled).

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26. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 8 or claim 9 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide; N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide; N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

27. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 10 or claim 11 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo [1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

28. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 12 or claim 13 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}methanesulfonamide:

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}ethanesulfonamide:

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; N-prop-2-vnyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-

ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

29. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 14 or claim 15 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-(3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

 $N-prop-2-ynyl-N-\{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]\ pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl\}-ethanesulfonamide; and$

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

30. (cancelled).

31. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 18 or claim 19 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}methanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}methanesulfonamide:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide: and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide.

32. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

 $N-methyl-N-\{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]\ pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl\}-methanesulfonamide;$

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

 $N-ethyl-N-\{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]\ pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl\}-ethanesulfonamide;$

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}ethanesulfonamide: and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

33. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 1, comprising reacting intermediate (II):

(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined in (I) and Q is an appropriate leaving group selected from the group consisting of N(dialkyl(C_1 - C_6)), alkylthio(C_1 - C_6) and alkoxy(C_1 - C_6), with intermediate (III):

(III)

wherein R_3 is as defined in (I) and alternatively, treatment of the compounds of claim 1, in the form of free base, with an acid to form a salt thereof.

34. (original) A process according to claim 33, comprising utilizing the intermediate of formula (II) where Q is selected from the group consisting of dimethylamino, methylthio and methoxy.

35. - 37. (cancelled).

38. (previously presented) A method for treating anxiety in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

39. (previously presented) A method for treating epilepsy in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

- 40. (cancelled).
- 41. (previously presented) A method for treating insomnia in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
 - 42. 44. (cancelled).
- 45. (previously presented) A method for inducing muscle relaxation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 46. (previously presented) A composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a therapeutically inert carrier.
 - 47. 51. (cancelled).